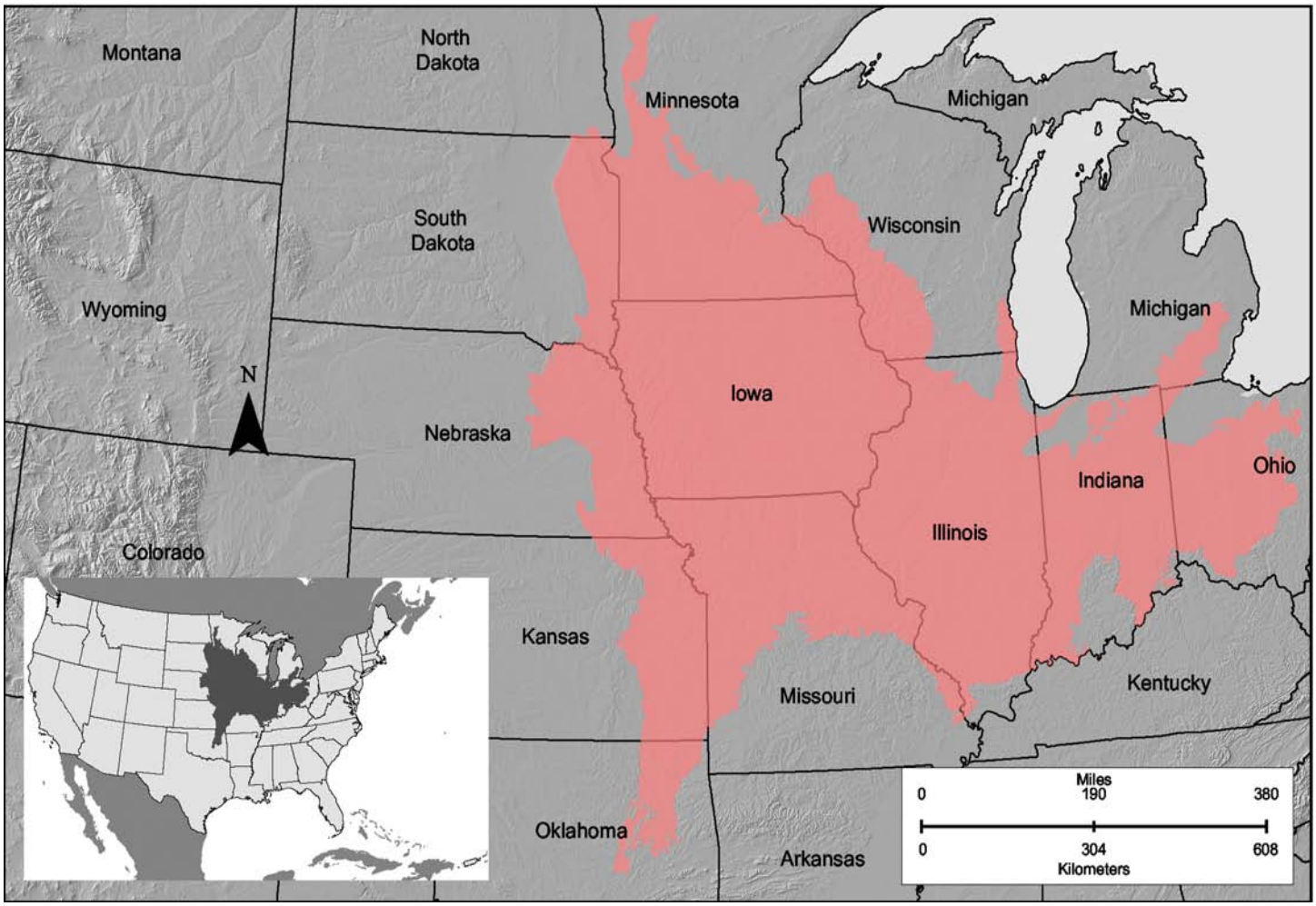

Location of Land Resource Region M.

M—Central Feed Grains and Livestock Region

This region is in Iowa (20 percent), Illinois (18 percent), Missouri (13 percent), Minnesota (11 percent), Indiana (9 percent), Kansas (6 percent), Nebraska (6 percent), Ohio (6 percent), Wisconsin (4 percent), South Dakota (4 percent), Oklahoma (2 percent), and Michigan (1 percent). Also, very small parts are in North Dakota and Kentucky. The region makes up 282,450 square miles (731,905 square kilometers).

Typically, the land surface is a nearly level to gently sloping, dissected glaciated plain. The average annual precipitation is typically 32 to 39 inches (815 to 990 millimeters), but it ranges from 19 to 48 inches (485 to 1,220 millimeters), increasing from north to south. Most of the precipitation occurs during the growing season. In most of the region, the average annual temperature is 47 to 53 degrees F (8 to 12 degrees C), but it ranges from 38 to 62 degrees F (4 to 17 degrees C), increasing from north to south. The freeze-free period generally is 170 to 210 days. It increases in length from north to south.

The total withdrawals of freshwater in this region average about 35,945 million gallons per day (136,050 million liters per day). This is one of six land resource regions that use more than 30,000 million gallons per day (113,550 million liters per day). This region is second only to the Northwestern Wheat and Range Region (LRR B) in total amount of water used. About 87 percent is from surface water sources, and 13 percent is from ground water sources. Abundant precipitation and numerous perennial streams provide ample supplies of good-quality surface water for all uses in the region. The lower reaches of the large rivers in the southern part of the region have poor-quality water primarily because of sediment, nutrients, and pesticides from agricultural runoff.

Riparian buffer in an area of Land Resource Region M.

The soils in this region are dominantly Alfisols, Entisols, Inceptisols, or Mollisols. Some Histosols occur on flood plains and in wetlands. The dominant suborders are Udalfs, Aqualfs, and Aquolls. The sandy soils are typically Psamments. The soils in the region dominantly have a mesic soil temperature regime, in the parts of this region in southern Indiana and in Illinois are an aquic or udic soil moisture regime, and mixed or smectitic strip-mined for coal. mineralogy. The major soil resource concerns are water erosion, wetness

About 99 percent of this region is privately owned. The soils and climate favor agriculture. This region produces most of the corn, soybeans, and feed grains produced in the U.S. The grains and hay grown in the region commonly are fed to beef cattle .Some specialty crops are grown near markets in the metropolitan areas. Much of the cropland near the larger cities is being subdivided and developed for urban uses. Small areas in the parts of this region in southern Indiana and in Illinois are strip-mined for coal. The major soil resource concerns are water erosion, wetness, and maintenance of the content of organic matter and productivity of the soils. Wind erosion is a hazard in some of the northern parts of the region where the lighter textured soils occur. Protecting wildlife habitat and preserving the quality of surface water and ground water are additional concerns in many parts of this region.